

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to resource constraints, Railways are not in a position to add any new category, including Dronacharya Award Winners, in the list of categories entitled to Complementary Card Pass.

[Translation]

Survey for New Railway Line

2558. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1976 dated December 5, 1996 and state :

(a) whether the survey for Kalka-Parwanoo rail line has been completed;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started;

(c) whether the modalities for funding of Una-Bhanupali-Beri via Bilaspur rail line has been worked out with Himachal Pradesh Government; and

(d) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of the 5.3 km. long Kalka-Parwanoo new line will be Rs. 23.50 crores. The work has been included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98 at cost of Rs. 23.00 crores. The work would be taken up only after the requisite approvals have been received.

(c) and (d) The matter has not yet been finalised. It is being coordinated by Himachal Pradesh Government. IRCON is participating from Railway's side. Once the modalities of funding are settled, and the requisite clearances have been obtained, the work can be taken up.

[English]

Enhancement of Time Limit for Reservation

2559. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to enhance the time-limit for advance reservation upto two months from the present time-limit of one month to eliminate cornering of berths by the travel agents/touts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that with references to a Public Notice issued by the Railways to various people have suggested the Ministry to enhance the said time-limit; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) In response to the advertisement issued by the Railways, a number of persons have suggested enhancement of advance reservation period. It has been agreed to in principal to increase the advance reservation period from 30 days to 60 days. The modalities for the same would be worked out in due course.

[Translation]

Waiting List in M.P.

2560. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh as on February 28, 1997 District-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The required information is given in statement attached.

(b) The total waiting list as on 28.2.97 in Madhya Pradesh was 64012. About 47950 new telephone connections were provided since then till 30.6.97. The majority of the remaining waiting list is likely to be cleared by the end of March, 1998 subject to availability of equipment and other resources.

Statement

District-Wise detail of MP tel-com circle

S.No.	District	W/L as on 28.2.97
1	2	3
1.	Balaghat	302
2.	Bastar	1451
3.	Betul	1411
4.	Bhind	775
5.	Bhopal	9148
6.	Bilaspur	5555